

FIRST EDITION THE RICHMOND CALAMITY.

A Hotel with Many of Its Inmates Burned—Piteous Scenes on a Cold Christmas Morning—Acts of Chivalry—Loss of Life—Names of the Victims.

RICHMOND, Dec. 25.—Not a year has passed since a swift, sudden, and without a shadow of premonition—this city was plunged into a depth of gloom almost without a parallel in the annals of any city on this continent by the falling in of the floor of the Court of Appeals in the Capitol Building. Since then flood has spread desolation throughout the State to add to the list of horrors that have marked the last decade in this beautiful land; and now I have to chronicle a calamity which, coming at the time it does, makes us feel that it is written by the finger of God, City of the Seven Hills, thou art doomed.

THE DEMON OF FIRE has again ravished it and added to the destruction of property and loss of life. Desolation, destruction, death, came hand-in-hand with the Ice King. Last night—Christmas Eve, which never, even in the dark days of our civil strife, was aught but a time of merry-making and rejoicing throughout the Old Dominion—found nearly every house in the city the scene of festivity. Christmas morning found the city in a state of mourning, for the night before, at half-past 3 o'clock A. M., a canopy of fire hung over the whole city. In one short hour, certainly five, if not more, souls were, not hurried, but dragged slowly into eternity, through the most horrible death-gates known to humanity. Only Dante, in his wildest flights of poetic imagination, could have depicted one-half the horrors of

THE BURNING OF THE SPOTSWOOD HOTEL. Not since the burning of the old theatre has Richmond witnessed such a scene.

Built without any brick partitions above the first floor, the flames having once gotten a headway, any attempt to check them was worse than futile. In a few minutes after the fire was discovered by the watchman, who happened to pass the pantry where a stove had been negligently allowed to burn, and which, becoming red hot, communicated to the floor, it had rushed with lightning speed from cellar to street, and by the time the Fire Department had become thoroughly organized for work and the whole interior of the immense structure was one sheet of living flame—mad, wild, hissing flame—in its resistless, desolating sweep, hurled athwart the frosty masses of burning timber like a volcanic demon laboring to discharge itself—now silent, as if to gather new strength; now roaring, cracking, thundering, as if striving to drown.

THE SHRIEKS OF THE VICTIMS, the hoarse, confused cries of the firemen, the shrill whistle of the engines, and the agonizing hum of the awailing crowd of citizens below, all died in the cause of humanity, but powerless.

Here is a mother barefooted on the frozen streets, and just as the cry of fire had startled her from her slumbers, raises the most agonizing of cries.

"SAVE MY CHILDREN!"

Here a brother looking frantically for a sister, or a wife pleading for some lifting of her husband, who when last seen was bravely firing and smoke to save some relation; there a man stupefied by horror and fear; beside him another, whose gallant spirit knows not the meaning of the latter word, and who, having saved one friend, is now in the fearful leap into the jaws of death to rescue another. Here is young

SAM HINES, who has just brought two friends from the fourth story out, and rushes back for a third, who is seen at the window of his room from the street below; but now the stairway is in flames. Only one chance remains: it is to jump, or to prepare to die.

Brave hearts will catch him, if he crushes them. Too late; the fire-friend has eliminated him. A volume of black, stifling smoke envelops him; angry forked flames leap like serpents' tongues from without the mass, and his gallant soul is in eternity.

Creeping, writhing, hissing during the lulls of the winter's blast—rushing as it springs fresh from its lair—the demon finally seizes upon two large buildings adjoining the hotel, when the scene, if possible, becomes more fearful than before. The mingling of the falling of walls and the crashing of the floors with the other

HORRORS OF THE SCENE.

At one time it appeared as if the destruction of the whole block was inevitable. The night was the severest of this winter, the spray from the streams falling in hail upon the half-dressed inmates of the hotel, as the stolid watching means in earnest to ring the building, and the next that rushed out was a brother, sister, husband, wife, son or daughter, or to give a word of encouragement to some one poised between two horrible forms of death and powder, except to cry out above the din below,

"SAVE MY CHILDREN!"

This heartrending appeal rang out from more than fifty windows, and rang out only once. It is not known positively that there were more than five actual victims of the flames, but the universal fear is that this does not approximate the number. One short hour and the fire-friend and done his worst. His progress had been checked, but two-thirds of the block fronting Main street and running back nearly the same distance was a fiery charnel lake, still smoking and seething, and unquenchable.

WHEN THE FIRE FIRST BROKE OUT, and the wild cry rang through the house, repeated from mouth to mouth with frantic and despairing energy, your correspondents whose names are in great part forgotten, were in the third story, woke up, and, after getting on some clothes, rushed into the long passage, now filled with smoke. A terrible scene met the eye through the smoky atmosphere. The forms of half-dressed males and females could be seen as they knew not whither, and shrieking in despair.

Proceeding further to the head of a staircase, progress was blocked up with an indiscriminate mass of luggage and people trying to escape. Rushing then to the right wing of the building, another staircase was reached, where the third story, woke up, and, after getting on some clothes, rushed into the long passage, now filled with smoke. A terrible scene met the eye through the smoky atmosphere. The forms of half-dressed males and females could be seen as they knew not whither, and shrieking in despair.

Proceeding further to the head of a staircase, progress was blocked up with an indiscriminate mass of luggage and people trying to escape. Rushing then to the right wing of the building, another staircase was reached, where the third story, woke up, and, after getting on some clothes, rushed into the long passage, now filled with smoke. A terrible scene met the eye through the smoky atmosphere. The forms of half-dressed males and females could be seen as they knew not whither, and shrieking in despair.

Proceeding further to the head of a staircase, progress was blocked up with an indiscriminate mass of luggage and people trying to escape. Rushing then to the right wing of the building, another staircase was reached, where the third story, woke up, and, after getting on some clothes, rushed into the long passage, now filled with smoke. A terrible scene met the eye through the smoky atmosphere. The forms of half-dressed males and females could be seen as they knew not whither, and shrieking in despair.

Proceeding further to the head of a staircase, progress was blocked up with an indiscriminate mass of luggage and people trying to escape. Rushing then to the right wing of the building, another staircase was reached, where the third story, woke up, and, after getting on some clothes, rushed into the long passage, now filled with smoke. A terrible scene met the eye through the smoky atmosphere. The forms of half-dressed males and females could be seen as they knew not whither, and shrieking in despair.

Proceeding further to the head of a staircase, progress was blocked up with an indiscriminate mass of luggage and people trying to escape. Rushing then to the right wing of the building, another staircase was reached, where the third story, woke up, and, after getting on some clothes, rushed into the long passage, now filled with smoke. A terrible scene met the eye through the smoky atmosphere. The forms of half-dressed males and females could be seen as they knew not whither, and shrieking in despair.

Proceeding further to the head of a staircase, progress was blocked up with an indiscriminate mass of luggage and people trying to escape. Rushing then to the right wing of the building, another staircase was reached, where the third story, woke up, and, after getting on some clothes, rushed into the long passage, now filled with smoke. A terrible scene met the eye through the smoky atmosphere. The forms of half-dressed males and females could be seen as they knew not whither, and shrieking in despair.

Proceeding further to the head of a staircase, progress was blocked up with an indiscriminate mass of luggage and people trying to escape. Rushing then to the right wing of the building, another staircase was reached, where the third story, woke up, and, after getting on some clothes, rushed into the long passage, now filled with smoke. A terrible scene met the eye through the smoky atmosphere. The forms of half-dressed males and females could be seen as they knew not whither, and shrieking in despair.

Proceeding further to the head of a staircase, progress was blocked up with an indiscriminate mass of luggage and people trying to escape. Rushing then to the right wing of the building, another staircase was reached, where the third story, woke up, and, after getting on some clothes, rushed into the long passage, now filled with smoke. A terrible scene met the eye through the smoky atmosphere. The forms of half-dressed males and females could be seen as they knew not whither, and shrieking in despair.

Proceeding further to the head of a staircase, progress was blocked up with an indiscriminate mass of luggage and people trying to escape. Rushing then to the right wing of the building, another staircase was reached, where the third story, woke up, and, after getting on some clothes, rushed into the long passage, now filled with smoke. A terrible scene met the eye through the smoky atmosphere. The forms of half-dressed males and females could be seen as they knew not whither, and shrieking in despair.

Proceeding further to the head of a staircase, progress was blocked up with an indiscriminate mass of luggage and people trying to escape. Rushing then to the right wing of the building, another staircase was reached, where the third story, woke up, and, after getting on some clothes, rushed into the long passage, now filled with smoke. A terrible scene met the eye through the smoky atmosphere. The forms of half-dressed males and females could be seen as they knew not whither, and shrieking in despair.

Proceeding further to the head of a staircase, progress was blocked up with an indiscriminate mass of luggage and people trying to escape. Rushing then to the right wing of the building, another staircase was reached, where the third story, woke up, and, after getting on some clothes, rushed into the long passage, now filled with smoke. A terrible scene met the eye through the smoky atmosphere. The forms of half-dressed males and females could be seen as they knew not whither, and shrieking in despair.

Proceeding further to the head of a staircase, progress was blocked up with an indiscriminate mass of luggage and people trying to escape. Rushing then to the right wing of the building, another staircase was reached, where the third story, woke up, and, after getting on some clothes, rushed into the long passage, now filled with smoke. A terrible scene met the eye through the smoky atmosphere. The forms of half-dressed males and females could be seen as they knew not whither, and shrieking in despair.

Proceeding further to the head of a staircase, progress was blocked up with an indiscriminate mass of luggage and people trying to escape. Rushing then to the right wing of the building, another staircase was reached, where the third story, woke up, and, after getting on some clothes, rushed into the long passage, now filled with smoke. A terrible scene met the eye through the smoky atmosphere. The forms of half-dressed males and females could be seen as they knew not whither, and shrieking in despair.

Proceeding further to the head of a staircase, progress was blocked up with an indiscriminate mass of luggage and people trying to escape. Rushing then to the right wing of the building, another staircase was reached, where the third story, woke up, and, after getting on some clothes, rushed into the long passage, now filled with smoke. A terrible scene met the eye through the smoky atmosphere. The forms of half-dressed males and females could be seen as they knew not whither, and shrieking in despair.

Proceeding further to the head of a staircase, progress was blocked up with an indiscriminate mass of luggage and people trying to escape. Rushing then to the right wing of the building, another staircase was reached, where the third story, woke up, and, after getting on some clothes, rushed into the long passage, now filled with smoke. A terrible scene met the eye through the smoky atmosphere. The forms of half-dressed males and females could be seen as they knew not whither, and shrieking in despair.

Proceeding further to the head of a staircase, progress was blocked up with an indiscriminate mass of luggage and people trying to escape. Rushing then to the right wing of the building, another staircase was reached, where the third story, woke up, and, after getting on some clothes, rushed into the long passage, now filled with smoke. A terrible scene met the eye through the smoky atmosphere. The forms of half-dressed males and females could be seen as they knew not whither, and shrieking in despair.

Proceeding further to the head of a staircase, progress was blocked up with an indiscriminate mass of luggage and people trying to escape. Rushing then to the right wing of the building, another staircase was reached, where the third story, woke up, and, after getting on some clothes, rushed into the long passage, now filled with smoke. A terrible scene met the eye through the smoky atmosphere. The forms of half-dressed males and females could be seen as they knew not whither, and shrieking in despair.

SECOND EDITION THE WAR IN EUROPE.

The Battle Near Amiens. Conflicting Accounts. The Losses at Nuits. The Siege of Paris. The Time of Bombardment. New Year's Day Fixed On. The Germans Closing the Seine. The Prussians at Orleans. Alleged Atrocities. The Spanish Throne. Amadeus Going to Madrid.

AMONG THE VICTIMS is Mrs. Kernaly, the housekeeper of the hotel. In vain was she urged by the proprietor, Mr. Lack, to escape; but she wanted her trunk. This she got, but then she wanted to have something else, and at last all the avenues of escape were cut off and she was swallowed up by the devouring element. Beside this lady and Hines among the known victims are Erasmus Ross, famous as clerk of the Liberty Prison during the war; Samuel in Northern companies, represented by D. N. Walker, for \$60,000. Messrs. Branch & Curran were insured in the North British and Mercantile for \$5000. Messrs. Sublett, Luck & Co., proprietors of the Spotswood, had their furniture insured for \$30,000, and their wines and carpets for \$7000 in the North British Company.

The National Insurance Company of Baltimore loses \$8500, and the Continental of New York \$9000. All the goods ready for delivery in the cellar of the Southern Express Company were destroyed. The company's money safes are buried in the ruins.

Among those who had very narrow escapes were M. Maillefer, of New York, engineer of the James river obstructions; S. A. Pearce, of Columbia, S. C., private secretary to Senator Sprague, and Mrs. E. Magill, proprietress of the theatre. The De Lave troupe lost their baggage. The hotel register was found to-night, and there are only six strangers not accounted for. It is probable some of the citizens have taken some of them to their houses. The name of the housekeeper or burned was Mrs. Emily Kennerly.

The business houses destroyed were Messrs. Branch & Curran's crockery store, Adams Express Company's office, Howe's machine store, and other smaller stores. The sun went down last night upon the happy anticipations of all classes of citizens rose with a glory seldom equalled, but to flash back from the ceilings that hung from

THE BLEAK RUINS, all the grandeur of myriads of diamonds, like death and destruction decked in diamonds. It is impossible to gather anything like a full statement of the incidents of this catastrophe, or to depict its horrors to-day. It is as if another funeral pall had been spread over the entire community.

THE MISSISSIPPI CATASTROPHE. Particulars of the Sinking of the Nick Wall—One Hundred Lives Reported Lost.

A survivor of the sunken steamer Nick Wall, who has reached Memphis, relates the following circumstantial account of the catastrophe. The accident occurred about four miles below Worthon's Point. The majority of the passengers, about thirty, had retired; eight of us were sitting around the stove amusing ourselves, when we felt the severe shock and jumped up, some making one way, some the other, and the front door leading to the boiler deck, but immediately after getting out everything seemed quiet, and I turned round and walked back to the cabin. I suppose the time that elapsed from the time the cabin until I returned was about two minutes, when a crash came and the hurricane roof caved in, dashing barrels, wagons, plows, and numerous other articles to the boiler-deck, where everybody had rushed who could get out of their staterooms. I was thrown against the smoke-stack, and by great exertions managed to extricate myself, and commenced climbing boxes and barrels, and was twice pulled back by the hair, and the third attempt I made some one caught me by the feet, and in the struggle to save myself pulled my hair out. Finally I managed to gain the hurricane deck. There saw no earthly chance of escape, as the roof was by this time crowded, and every one seeking something on which to float. The boat was by this time under water, nothing remaining on but the hurricane roof and pilot-house. I cannot give a description of the night at that moment, for my blood runs cold when I think of it. The wreck was still floating down the river, and we did not know what moment she would sink. Women were screaming for their husbands and children for their parents. Just as we thought all hopes were past, we saw the lights of a boat coming up the river, and every one that could shouted for assistance. James Vandervoort, assistant pilot, lit a piece of paper and showed it as a signal of distress. In about fifteen minutes she managed to get on board the Seminoles. Everything was done by the captain, crew, and passengers of the Seminoles that could be done to extricate the dead and wounded. A nephew of Captain Poe, the commander of the Nick Wall, while endeavoring to escape from beneath the falling bales and boxes, was crushed, and finally fell into the river and drowned. The Pargond passed the wreck of the Nick Wall about two hours after the disaster, and the captain and officers and crew tendered the unfortunate people taken from the Wall every possible kindness. Those going down the river were taken by the Pargond to their destination without charge. Mrs. Poe was found wedged in the cabin between boxes and barrels. In cutting through the hurricane roof the axe struck her head, causing a slight wound. She was brought to the Seminoles, and is doing well. The dead bodies were brought in the scene beggared description—husbands searching for wife and children, and children for parents among the bodies. Twenty-five bodies were taken out of the wreck, and many others were on the lower deck, which was then under water. When Mrs. Poe found the water was up to her chin in the cabin. A gentleman, with his wife, daughter, and son-in-law—the two last named only married a few days—were among the dead. They intended to get off about one mile below.

SINGULAR ACCIDENT. The Pittsburg Commercial of the 23rd instant says:—A singular explosion happened yesterday morning at half-past eight o'clock, at the residence of Judge Kirkpatrick, No. 323 Penn street. As the cook, Martha Wylie, was attending to her kitchen duties, the boiler attached to the range exploded with a terrific noise, alarming the whole household, and injuring the cook severely. The Judge and his wife found the cook lying on the floor with her clothing on fire in several places. The fire was immediately extinguished and the servant placed in bed. An examination showed that the range, a first-class Cincinnati article, had been blown to atoms, and the fragments scattered all around the room, damaging the walls, and smashing all the glass in the windows. The cause of the explosion is unknown, but the supposition is that some arrangement of the pipes, preventing a proper flow of water, must have occurred. The servant was attended by Dr. Dickson, and found to have sustained a comminuted compound fracture of the right leg, below the knee. She was also slightly injured, but her injuries will not endanger her life.

THE WAR IN EUROPE.

The Battle Near Amiens. Conflicting Accounts. The Losses at Nuits. The Siege of Paris. The Time of Bombardment. New Year's Day Fixed On. The Germans Closing the Seine. The Prussians at Orleans. Alleged Atrocities. The Spanish Throne. Amadeus Going to Madrid.

THE BATTLE NEAR AMIENS. King William's Report of the Engagement. LONDON, Dec. 25.—King William telegraphs to the Queen that General Manteuffel won a victory on the 23d near Amiens, taking one thousand prisoners. He is pursuing the French in the direction of Arras to-day.

General Faidherbe's Report. BORDEAUX, Dec. 25.—General Faidherbe, commanding the Army of the North, reports as follows to the Minister of War:—The Prussians gave us battle on the 23d inst. We were well posted, between Daours and Contay. Our troops fought admirably during the entire day.

VILLAGES TAKEN AND RETAKEN. Villages were taken and retaken. At 5 in the afternoon our success was complete. We drove the enemy before us with the bayonet. During the night the Prussians entered some villages in the valley, but they did not try to attack our positions.

THE FRENCH SLEEP ON THE BATTLE-FIELD. Other reports say General Faidherbe was successful on his right and left wings, and his army slept on the field of battle, but the result was it decisive. The next day, the enemy shown no disposition to renew the fight, General Faidherbe returned to Albert.

Still Another Account. LONDON, Dec. 25.—(Special to the New York World).—General Faidherbe had two engagements with the Germans, one on the 23d and another on the 24d. After the battle he withdrew his troops across the valley of the Somme at Ally.

DETAILS OF THE BATTLES. Our special correspondent at Brussels, Mr. Tardieu, sends me word, dated yesterday, that General Faidherbe has fallen back across the valley of the Somme at Ally.

STORMING THE VILLAGES. During the battle of the 23d General Manteuffel stormed the villages of Beaucourt, Montigny, Daours, Teichenourt, Querieux, Pont-Noyelles, Buzy, and Vequegnon, the French yielding only after a desperate resistance.

LOSSES ON BOTH SIDES. The German losses were about 3000 men; the French, including prisoners, about 5500.

Manteuffel Pursuing the French. LONDON, Dec. 27.—General Manteuffel is in active pursuit of the French army of the North, and captured some prisoners at Albert.

THE BATTLE OF NUITS. A French Account—The Losses on Both Sides.

LONDON, Dec. 25.—An account of the battle of the 18th at Nuits, from French sources, says the force opposed to the Prussians numbered 10,000 men and had three batteries of artillery. The combat lasted all day. At evening the French retreated in an orderly manner about a thousand yards. The new levies fought like veterans. The Prussians abandoned Nuits on the morning of the 19th, but subsequently returned and reoccupied the place. The French put their loss at 1300 killed and wounded, and claim that the enemy lost some 5000 men.

THE BESIEGED CAPITAL. English Vessels Scuttled in the Seine and their Crews Robbed.

LONDON, Dec. 27.—The Havre correspondent of the London Times forwards the following intelligence from that city under date of yesterday:—The Prussians have scuttled six English vessels at Duclair, a small town situated on the Seine, a few miles from Rouen. This was done for the purpose of impeding the navigation of the river. The crews were turned adrift to sleep on the ground after they had been robbed of their money and other property.

England Indignant at the Outrage. LONDON, Dec. 27.—The sinking of six English ships in the Seine by the Prussians, for the purpose of obstructing navigation, has occasioned great indignation here and throughout England. The British Vice-Consul at Rouen has presented to the Prussian commander a formal protest against an act of spoliation committed upon British subjects.

No Fighting at Paris Since the 21st. LONDON, Dec. 25.—Balloon advices from Paris to the 23d are at hand. There had been no more fighting. The French loss in the sortie of the 21st was reported at about 800. The confidence of the inhabitants is undiminished.

The People Still Defiant. LONDON, Dec. 25.—The New York Herald correspondent at Paris, writing under date of December 19, says:—The condition of the city is much better than could have been expected a month ago. The manner in which the inhabitants sustain themselves is marvellous. I should say, however, that, as a rule, the people are paler and thinner than formerly, and some respectable looking persons have been seen to beg in the streets. Nevertheless there is no talk of surrender, and the outcry for sorties is general. The inhabitants are determined to resist till the last grain of food is consumed.

It is believed that the Germans have become so exasperated by the resistance of Paris that after the fall of the city they will make terrible reprisals. The eyes of the world are now fixed upon Paris. The Germans can no longer boast of that superiority over the French which they have enjoyed for months; and now that the heroism of the enemy has put an end to the delusion, they have become more rational, serious, and revengeful. Meanwhile the French outworks are now so far in advance of the city that you may shortly hear of the destruction of Versailles.

French Pyrotechnics. LONDON, Dec. 27.—The latest advices from Versailles are to the effect that the fortifications of Paris still waste ammunition by an ineffectual cannonade of the Prussian positions. The bombardment to commence on New Year's Day.

LONDON, Dec. 27.—I learn from private and reliable sources that the bombardment of three of the Paris forts will begin on the first day of January. These forts are situated on the south side of the city. Everything is ready and all the details arranged.

The attack and bombardment would have commenced sooner but for the considerations of the festival of Christmas entertained by the German soldiers. On the night of the New Year shells will be thrown into different parts of Paris for the purpose of establishing the range of the German guns, after which the bombardment will continue incessantly until the capitulation.

General Siege Items. LONDON, Dec. 25.—The range of the shells from Mont Valerien is found to be nine kilometres. The weather throughout both France and England has become intensely cold.

AFFAIRS AT ORLEANS. Archbishop Dupanloup and the Germans—The Reported Excesses of the Latter.

BORDEAUX, Dec. 21.—(Special to the N. Y. Herald).—The newspapers here state that the condition of the armies in the field is daily improving. Great excitement exists in Bordeaux in consequence of the conduct of the Germans at Orleans. Bishop Dupanloup has been subjected to the greatest indignities. It is reported that he has addressed a pastoral to the French clergy invoking the vengeance of Heaven on the "barbarians."

It is stated that the Cathedral of Orleans was filled with thousands of French prisoners, who were left without bread or fuel, while the Germans played the organ in derision of their sufferings.

A priest dressed in his clerical robes, and wearing the badge of the International Aid Society for the Wounded, while attending a dying soldier had his head laid open by a sabre cut. Another clergyman was shot for refusing to give information relative to the French army camped between St. Nandre and St. Regatien and Dampierre.

No News To-day. BORDEAUX, Dec. 27.—There is no news from the Army of the Loire.

The Prussian Force at Orleans. There are 20,000 Prussians at Orleans, which city was also pillaged. The Prussian officers and men all engaged in the work of plunder.

The Army of the Loire. BORDEAUX, Dec. 23.—General Boubaki sends the Government a favorable account of the army under his command.

No Recent Fighting. LONDON, Dec. 25.—(Special to the New York World).—The whole army of General de Chanzy has been near Le Mans since the 20th. There has been no battle since the 16th on the Loire. Telegrams from Bordeaux of fighting there refer to the battle of the 16th. An official despatch from Le Mans, of December 24, announces that the Prussians have withdrawn from Nogent-le-Rotrou. Seventy-five thousand men passed through the town, going in the direction of Paris.

THE WAR IN EUROPE.

The Battle Near Amiens. Conflicting Accounts. The Losses at Nuits. The Siege of Paris. The Time of Bombardment. New Year's Day Fixed On. The Germans Closing the Seine. The Prussians at Orleans. Alleged Atrocities. The Spanish Throne. Amadeus Going to Madrid.

AMADEUS ON THE WAY TO MADRID. FLORENCE, Dec. 26.—Prince Amadeus, accompanied by the Minister of Marine, has started for Madrid. General Cialdini follows, and is to receive in the Spanish capital the title of Duke of Gaeta.

Resignation of Rivero. MADRID, Dec. 26.—Rivero, President of the Council, has resigned, and is succeeded temporarily by Senor Sagasta.

The Belgian Army. LONDON, Dec. 27.—It is stated that the Belgian civic guard will be reorganized as mobile garrards.

A Disabled Steamer Signalled. LIVERPOOL, Dec. 27.—The steamship City of Baltimore, at Queenstown from New York, reports having passed, 800 miles from Fastnet, a steamer painted black, with white ports, with loss of screw, and bound east under sail. Wanted no assistance. She is thought to be the steamer Virginia, which left New York December 3 for Queenstown and Liverpool.

Another Railway Accident in England. LONDON, Dec. 27.—Eight persons were killed by a railway accident near Hatfield this morning.

The Alabama Claims. LONDON, Dec. 26.—The Pall Mall Gazette is anxious that "Americans should know that England is heartily tired of the Alabama controversy, and is ready to pay any impartial money award if an adjustment can be confined thereto."

General English Items. The Fenian convicts were discharged from Portland Prison on Friday last.

John Walter, Jr., son of the chief editor of the London Times, broke through the ice while skating and was drowned.

The colonists of New Zealand are dissatisfied at the delay of the mails sent via California.

FRENCH OFFICERS CHARGED WITH BREAKING THEIR PAROLE. LONDON, Dec. 24.—Count Bismarck, in a circular despatch to the representatives of the North German Confederation serving at foreign Courts, charges that many French officers, among others Generals Ducrot, Barral, and Cambrils, have, "in violation of the word of honor" given on parole, rejoined the French army, and that "the word of honor of French officers does not in all instances constitute the guarantee for which it was accepted."

The Prussian Premier further mentions that "the French officers who are still held in Germany as prisoners of war have had to suffer nothing additional in the way of a captive inconvenience or fear from the faith of their comrades." Having promised so far, Count Bismarck continues:—

"But the matter assumes a different aspect, from the fact that the Government of National Defense of France officially approves of this breach of faith on the part of officers who have escaped from their parole, by giving them commissions in the armies which are fighting against us, while from the commands of the French army actively engaged in the field no protest has yet come against the entrance of these faithless officers into their lines, although it has been made evident to the members of the Paris Government that all officers holding commissions under their become participants in the responsibility which is attached to each of faith which has been committed by these individuals against the usages of war. Under these circumstances, the Government of the North German Confederation is placed in the necessity of taking into consideration the question whether it is compatible with the military interests of the country to further grant those favors to French officers which they have hitherto enjoyed. The Government of His Majesty the King (William) has also placed before it the still greater question of what amount of consideration it can place in the fulfillment of any conventions which may be concluded with French commanders or the French Government, without having had previously material guarantees for their due observance, and a reservation to the German Government of their own decisions and the rights thereof in this respect."

Count Bismarck concludes as follows:— "I feel under the necessity of directing your attention, and that of the Government to which you are accredited, to our experience of the great importance which these matters and facts have with regard to the international relations of the countries with France, in order that any protests which the French rulers may raise against such prudential measures on our part may meet their proper appreciation."

This Morning's Quotations. LONDON, Dec. 27.—11:30 A. M.—Consols, 91; for money and account of U. S. Bonds quiet; 5-20s of 1862, 8 1/2; of 1865, old, 8 3/4; of 1867, 8 1/4; 10-40s, 8 1/4. Stocks quiet; Erie, 20; Illinois Central, 11 1/2.

LIVERPOOL, Dec. 27.—11:30 A. M.—Cotton opened quiet; uplands, 8 1/4; Orleans, 5 3/4. The sales are estimated at 12,000 bales. Wheat—All qualities firmer, but quotations unchanged.

The Afternoon's Quotations. LONDON, Dec. 27.—3:30 P. M.—American securities quiet. Stocks quiet.

LIVERPOOL, Dec. 27.—3:30 P. M.—Cotton steady. Wheat, 8s. 10d.; 10s. 6d., extreme range for No. 2 to No. 1 red Western spring. Bacon, 5s. for short-billed middles. Beef, 12s. 6d.; Lard, 6s.

GENERAL WAR NEWS. Telegraphic Connections.

BORDEAUX, Dec. 25.—Telegraphic communication between this city and the north of France has been restored.

A Force from Brest. A fleet of transports is preparing to leave Brest, with a considerable force, for an unknown destination.

The New Levies. The French Government is hastening the organization of district camps for new levies. A camp has been formed between Saint Audrie, Saint Rigatien, and Dupriere, and there is great activity in the instruction of the troops. The best spirit prevails, and men of all grades of society are ready to assist in the national defense.

Strength of the Germans. The people of Lyons are confident that the invaders will be expelled from France. The total effective force of the German armies now in France is set down in round numbers at 600,000, half of which is now before Paris. In addition to this number, 100,000 men are reported on the sick list: It is estimated that 300,000 Germans have been killed or disabled since the beginning of the war.

The Balt and the Loire. Garrison duty in Prussia is to be intrusted to volunteers who, by reason of being under or over age of having served their terms, are not liable to military service.

Meziers Surrounded. LONDON, Dec. 27.—Meziers is surrounded by 15,000 Prussians, and a siege is imminent.

Alleged Pillaging at Blois. BORDEAUX, Dec. 27.—A despatch from Poitiers, dated the 25th inst., says 10,000 Prussians, with artillery, occupy Blois, and have indiscriminately pillaged both public and private houses.

A Camp Abandoned. A despatch from Alencon, dated the 25th inst., says the enemy evacuated Elbeuf and Bongreronde, at which latter place they had an entrenched camp.

GENERAL EUROPEAN NEWS. The King-Elect of Spain.

LONDON, Dec. 25.—Prince Amadeus, of Italy, King-elect of Spain, was to leave Florence for Madrid at 11 o'clock this morning, but despatches sent hence as late as half-past four this afternoon make no mention of his departure.

FINANCE AND COMMERCE.

There is a brisk demand for money to-day from business men preparatory to the usual annual settlements, the period for which is near at hand. Rates, however, are unchanged, so far as strictly first-class paper is concerned, but inferior acceptances are difficult of sale at any figure. The general tone is firm, and the impression is that the market will be close for the next ten days at least. We quote call loans at 5 1/2 per cent. on good collaterals, but there is only a limited demand.

Gold continues quiet and very steady, with price ranging from 110 1/2 to 110 3/4, with few variations. Government bonds are dull and firm, but a few issues are somewhat unsettled.

At the Stock Board prices were firm, but the business transacted was limited. In State and city securities no sales. Lehigh Gold Loan changed hands at 85 1/2.

Reading Railroad sold on a limited scale at 49 1/2 to 49 3/4. Sales of Pennsylvania at 62 to 62 1/4. Minehill at 50; Little Schuylkill at 44; and Camden and Amboy at 118 1/2.

In Bank Shares Mechanics sold at 31 1/2. In Passenger Railway shares no sales. 465 was bid for Tenth and Eleventh; 20